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### ACS APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

The American Citizen Services section of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara and the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul use an on-line appointment system for all ACS services including passport services, reports of birth, and notary services.

You may make or cancel an appointment on line for Ankara at

[Click here to make or cancel an appointment for a notarial service or for other American Citizen Services Unit related inquiries.](#)

You may make or cancel an appointment on line for Istanbul at

[Click here to make or cancel an appointment for passport-related applications, Reports of Birth Abroad for children, or extra passport pages.](#)

[Click here to make or cancel an appointment for a notarial service or for other American Citizen Services Unit related inquiries.](#)



### EMBASSY WARDEN NOTICES ON YOUR CELLULAR PHONE

We are pleased to announce the availability of a new **SMS** alert service for American citizens interested in receiving warden messages and security alerts from the Embassy on their mobile phones. The service, which is optional, will run on an SMS system operated through Turkcell.

To sign up for this service please e-mail [AnkaraWarden@state.gov](mailto:AnkaraWarden@state.gov) with the subject line “SMS Enroll” and then put your name and mobile number in the body of the message. SMS messages sent by the Embassy will be subject to whatever charges your cell phone provider imposes.



## **IT'S SPRING, A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW**

Now is a good time to plan for the future – check your passport's expiration date, update your registration with the Embassy, and don't forget to request an absentee ballot.

**Check your (and your family's) passports' expiration dates.** School breaks are just around the corner. Before you book the tickets and make the hotel reservations, check the expiration dates of your passport and your family's passports (remember that your child's passport is only valid for five years). Renewing passports early can save you both time and expense. Remember all American citizens must enter and exit the United States on a valid U.S. passport. For more information on renewing passports for adults and children, please visit our website at <http://turkey.usembassy.gov/passports.html>

**Update your registration.** It is very important that you keep your registration information current. This allows us to communicate with you and assist you in the event of an emergency. If you have recently moved or have a new phone number, please take a minute to update your information at the U.S. State Department's travel registration site, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. If you haven't registered with us, please take the time to register now.

**Request an absentee ballot.** Each state has its own deadline for requesting an absentee ballot. Request your ballot today in order to vote in your state's next election. Please consult your state-specific instructions on the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at <http://www.fvap.gov> for more information on how to submit your request for an absentee ballot. Remember that many states, but not all, allow for electronic submission (via either fax or e-mail) of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and this can save valuable time in meeting the state-specific deadlines. Either fax or email (and always subsequently mail) your FPCA to the state government entity responsible for voter registration according to the instructions for your state. Additionally, Voting Information News (VIN) is a monthly newsletter that contains information on upcoming elections. You can view the newsletter at <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vin.html>.



**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CHILD?**  
(Khan Ata Göçmen Lagemann)



(Photo taken in 2007)



(Photo taken in 2009)

**If you have seen this child, please contact the US Embassy or any of the Consulates at the numbers listed below. Any information you provide might help us find this child, missing in Turkey since 2007.**

Contact information:

**The US Embassy in Ankara:**  
0-312-455-5555

**The U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul:** 0-212-335-9000

**The U.S. Consulate in Adana:**  
0-322-346-6262

**Izmir Consular Agent:** 0-232-464-8755



**NEW LAW MAKES ABSENTEE  
VOTING EASIER FOR OVERSEAS  
AMERICANS**

On October 28, 2009, Congress enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for overseas Americans.

New Procedures for 2010 Elections

Beginning with the November 2010 general election, and for all subsequent general, special, and primary elections, states will be required to mail out ballots at least 45 days prior to an election for a federal office. This requirement may cause some states to select earlier primary dates in order to comply with the 45 day mailing deadline, or to request waivers due to special circumstances.

In addition to mailing ballots to overseas voters, the states will be required, at the voter's request, to provide registration forms, absentee ballot request forms, and blank ballots via fax or email. However, each state's laws determine whether ballot requests or voted ballots can be returned via fax or email. The new law prohibits states from rejecting marked ballots based on notarization, paper size, or paper weight requirements. The

witnessing requirements of individual states remain in place.

### Overseas Absentee Ballot Requests

Effective immediately, states will no longer be required by federal law to continue to mail election materials to overseas addresses (even when they are determined to be invalid) for two complete general election cycles on the basis of a single ballot request. It will now be up to each state to determine how long to continue to send out election materials before requiring overseas voters to submit new ballot requests. This change, sought by local election officials, should greatly decrease the volume of voting materials sent abroad to addresses where Americans no longer reside.

### State Department Recommendations

In light of these changes, the Department of State recommends that all U.S. voters residing abroad request absentee ballots from their local election officials at the start of each calendar year, and whenever there is a change of address, change of e-mail address, or change of name, by completing and sending in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). To locate information on your specific state's requirements, and to obtain an on-line version of the FPCA, please visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Voters may also pick up a hard copy of the FPCA from any U.S. embassy or consulate. FPCAs may be mailed to your local voting officials in the United States via international mail or from any U.S. embassy or consulate. Many states allow U.S. citizens overseas to submit the FPCA by e-mail or fax.

The Department of State strongly encourages all U.S. overseas voters to

provide email addresses or fax numbers on their FPCAs to enable local election officials to transmit election materials in the fastest manner available, which should then allow sufficient time for the return of voted ballots. For information regarding your specific state, please visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

### Emergency Ballots

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for the November general elections for federal offices, although some states also permit its use for elections for state and local offices. Beginning in January 2011, the new law allows use of the FWAB for primary, special, and runoff elections for federal offices. Voters who request an absentee ballot in advance of their state's ballot request deadline, but who fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials in time to vote, should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot and send it back to local election officials in time for it to be counted. An on-line version of the FWAB, together with instructions for its use, is available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



### **PRIMARY ELECTION DATES FOR 2010**

You may see the primary election dates listed by state at the below link or by months as below:

<http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/vaghandout3.pdf>

### **May**

Indiana- May 4  
North Carolina- May 4  
Ohio- May 4  
Nebraska- May 11  
West Virginia- May 14  
Arkansas- May 18  
Kentucky- May 18  
Oregon- May 18  
Pennsylvania- May 18  
Idaho- May 25

### **June**

Alabama- June 1  
Mississippi- June 1  
New Mexico- June 1  
California- June 8  
Iowa- June 8  
Maine- June 8  
Montana- June 8  
Nevada- June 8  
New Jersey- June 8  
North Dakota- June 8  
South Carolina- June 8  
South Dakota- June 8  
Virginia- June 8  
Utah- June 22

### **July**

Georgia- July 20  
Oklahoma- July 27

### **August**

Kansas- August 3  
Michigan- August 3  
Missouri- August 3  
Tennessee- August 5  
Colorado- August 10  
Connecticut- August 10  
Washington- August 17  
Wyoming- August 17

Alaska- August 24  
Florida- August 24  
Louisiana- 1st Party Congressional-  
August 28  
Arizona- August 31

### **September**

Guam- September 4  
Virgin Islands- September 11  
Delaware- September 14  
District of Columbia- September 14  
Maryland- September 14  
Massachusetts- September 14  
Minnesota- September 14  
New Hampshire- September 14  
New York- September 14  
Rhode Island- September 14  
Vermont- September 14  
Wisconsin- September 14  
Hawaii- September 18

### **October**

Louisiana- State Primary and 2nd Party  
Congressional- October 2



### **FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER**

*Voting Information News (VIN)* is a monthly newsletter that contains information on upcoming elections. You may view the newsletter at <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vin.html>





## IS YOUR MONEY STILL GOOD? – NAME CHANGE OF THE TURKISH LIRA

Back in January of 2009, the Government of Turkey changed the name of the currency from “Yeni TL” or “Yeni Kurus” to “TL” or “Kurus”. The old currency (with “yeni” on it) is no longer valid but may be redeemed until December 31, 2019 at branches of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and at Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Ziraat Bankası.



## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS OFFICE

You may find the contact information of Federal Benefits Offices on our website at [http://turkey.usembassy.gov/federal\\_benefits2.html](http://turkey.usembassy.gov/federal_benefits2.html) for your specific questions.



## TAX SEASON - TAX FORMS AND PUBLICATIONS ONLINE

April 15 of each year is the due date for filing your Federal individual income tax return, if your tax year ends December 31st. Many Americans who live overseas, however, are missing vital documents and are unable to file their taxes by the due date of April 15. If you cannot file by the due date of your return, then you can request an extension of time to file. However, an extension of time to file is **not** an extension of time to pay. You will owe interest on any past due tax and you may be subject to a late payment penalty if payment is not made in a timely fashion. To receive an automatic 6-month extension of time to file your return, you can file [Form 4868](#) (PDF), *Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*, by the due date of your return.

For more information, refer to the Form 4868 Instructions. If you are a United States citizen or resident alien, who is either: (1) living outside of the United States and Puerto Rico and your main place of business or post of duty is outside of the United States and Puerto Rico; or (2) in military or naval services on duty outside of the United States and Puerto Rico on the due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension until June 15 to file your return and pay any tax due. For additional

information refer to [Publication 54](#), *Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad*. If you use this automatic 2-month extension, you **must** attach a statement to your return explaining which of the two situations qualify you for the extension. For additional information on extensions, refer to [Topic 304](#), *Extensions of Time to File Your Tax Return*.

The Embassy does not have tax forms in stock. The link for FEDERAL tax forms and instructions is <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html?portlet=3>

For State tax forms click on <http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html>.

Please also note that: You may file your taxes electronically at <http://www.irs.gov/efile/index.html> and tax forms are available by mail from the IRS on-line at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/page/0,,id=10768,00.html>



### **INFLUENZA A (H1N1) INFORMATION**

Due to legal restrictions and a lack of sufficient resources, the Embassy is not in a position to provide private citizens with

pandemic-related supplies, medications or medical treatment, including vaccines, and cannot provide specific medical advice. Questions and concerns about influenza or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional. A list of local hospitals and doctors can be found on our website at [http://turkey.usembassy.gov/medical\\_information.html](http://turkey.usembassy.gov/medical_information.html)

For more information on how to prepare for a severe pandemic, please see the State Department "Pandemic Influenza Fact Sheet" and "Options During a Pandemic" flyer located on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Detailed information about 2009-H1N1 influenza can be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, the U.S. Government's federal influenza website at <http://www.flu.gov>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>.



### **ANTIQUITIES**

The summer tourist season is almost upon us, and many of you living here in Turkey might be hosting visitors. Please be aware that Turkish law has a broad definition of "antiquities" and makes it a crime to remove any from the country.



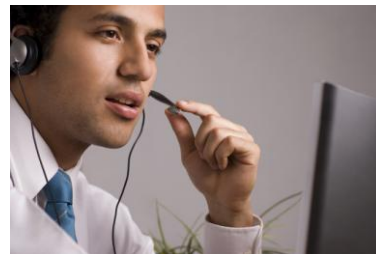
Offenders are prosecuted. Under Turkish law, all historic sites such as fortresses, castles and ruins, and everything in them, on the grounds, or in the water, are the property of the Turkish government. While many sites do not have signs cautioning the unwary, official silence does not mean official consent. Certain antiquities may be purchased, but only from authorized dealers who have been issued a certificate by a museum for each item they are authorized to sell. At the time of departure, travelers who purchase such items may be asked to present the receipt and certificate. You may be arrested and placed in jail for one month or longer. Contact the Embassy of Turkey in Washington or one of Turkey's consulates in the United States for specific information regarding customs requirements.

In addition, many travelers to Turkey purchase replicas of antique items, such as small statues and the like. Be aware that a traveler with an imitation antiquity may still be detained at the airport while a local museum examines the item. In some cases, items which are clearly replicas are confiscated, and the traveler is deported from Turkey. Seemingly the only way to make sure that everything is in order is for the traveler to take the replica item to a local museum and get a certificate stating it is not an antiquity. The shopkeeper's certificate is apparently not enough to avoid problems at the point of departure in all cases.



### **NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES OFFICER**

I am leaving Ankara in a few weeks for my next assignment. I have enjoyed working with you all, and the wonderful staff in the American Citizen Services section of the Embassy as well as the rest of the excellent Consular staff. Daniel Keen will be the ACS officer beginning in April. I will certainly miss Turkey; the people, the food, the history, the shopping, and hope to return someday. Thanks,  
Marilyn Holleran



### **CONSULAR SERVICES**

Consular personnel can provide assistance to crime victims. When a U.S. citizen becomes the victim of a crime overseas, he or she may suffer physical, emotional, or financial injuries. Additionally, the emotional impact of the crime may be intensified because the victim is in unfamiliar surroundings. The victim may not be near sources of comfort and support, fluent in the local language, or knowledgeable about local laws and customs.

Consuls, consular agents, and local employees at overseas posts are familiar with local government agencies and resources in the country where they work. They can help American crime victims with issues such as:

Replacing a stolen passport;

Contacting family, friends, or employers;

Obtaining appropriate medical care;

Addressing emergency needs that arise as a result of the crime;

Obtaining general information about the local criminal justice process and information about your case;

Obtaining information about local resources to assist victims, including foreign crime victim compensation programs;

Obtaining information about crime victim assistance and compensation programs in the U.S.; and

Obtaining a list of local attorneys who speak English.

Consular officials cannot, however, investigate crimes, provide legal advice or represent you in court, serve as official interpreters or translators, or pay legal, medical, or other fees for you.

We hope not but in case you need assistance from us please call 455-5555 x7004 between 08:30-17:30 or the Embassy Duty officer at 455-5555 after hours.



## THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

The Embassy will be closed on the following American and Turkish holidays:

April 23 (Fri) - National Sovereignty and Children's Day (Turkey)

May 1 (Sat) – Labor and Solidarity Day (Turkey.)

May 19 (Wed) – Ataturk Memorial, Youth and Sports Day (Turkey.)



## OUR CONTACT INFO

Contact information for the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Turkey:

**Ankara:** 110 Ataturk Boulevard

Tel: (90)(312) 455-5555

Fax (90)(312) 468-6131

<http://ankara.usembassy.gov>

**Istanbul:** Uc Sehitler Sokak No. 2,  
34460, Istinye, Sariyer,

Tel: (90) (212) 335-9000

Fax (90) (212) 335-9102

<http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov>

**Adana:** Girne Bulvari No. 212,  
Guzelevler Mahallesi, Yuregir  
Tel: (90)(322) 346-6262  
Fax (90)(322) 346-7916  
<http://adana.usconsulate.gov>

**Izmir** Consular Agent:  
(90)(232) 464-8755  
[http://izmir.usvpp.gov/izmir\\_consular\\_agency.html](http://izmir.usvpp.gov/izmir_consular_agency.html)